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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2009: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2009. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covers the major activities carried out by the Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme on population is to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and the population dimensions of development at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population of the biennial programme plan and priorities. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). It also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population, as well as relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6/Rev.1), the objective of subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, was to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and the population dimensions of development at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance for the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme, as presented in section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 9)), were to have:

(a) Effectively facilitated review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Enhanced awareness of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth and population ageing;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme on population and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding population estimates and projections, and information and analyses on population and development issues.

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. The present report focuses on the research activities and other initiatives pursued by the Population Division during 2009, presented according to thematic area. It also provides a substantive summary of the results of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results through various forms of outreach. A recapitulation of the Division's technical meetings and publications for 2009 is presented in the annex to this report.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. An Expert Group Meeting on Recent and Future Trends in Fertility was held in New York from 2 to 4 December 2009. The meeting brought together experts from academic institutions, research institutes and statistical offices to examine recent trends in fertility and discuss future prospects as part of preparations for the forthcoming 2010 Revision of *World Population Prospects*. The first two days of the meeting were devoted to presentations on fertility levels, trends and prospects in selected countries and regions of the world. The third day focused on the presentation and assessment of new methodology for projecting fertility based on a Bayesian approach. The results presented were encouraging and will be taken into account in the preparation of the 2010 Revision.

7. As part of its task of producing and disseminating timely estimates of the determinants of fertility, the Population Division produced two wallcharts and three data sets on CD-ROM. The wallchart and CD-ROM entitled *World Contraceptive Use 2009*[2] present estimates of levels of and trends in contraceptive use for 181 countries or areas, including data by method used and estimates of unmet need for contraception. Globally, in 2007, 63 per cent of women of reproductive age who were married or in union were contraceptive users. Contraceptive prevalence ranged from 3 per cent in Chad to 88 per cent in Norway, and was higher in the more developed regions (70 per cent) than in the less developed regions (62 per cent). Contraceptive prevalence remained low in sub-Saharan Africa, at 21 per cent, and unmet need for contraception was particularly high in that region, with half of the 42 countries with data reporting that between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in union had an unmet need for contraception. Globally, the most common contraceptive method is female sterilization, used by 20 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 who are married or in union, followed by the intrauterine device (IUD), used by 14 per cent, and the birth control pill, used by 9 per cent. The ranking of contraceptive methods varies considerably across countries and regions.

8. The CD-ROMs entitled World Fertility Data 2008[3] and World Marriage Data 2008[3] present both period and cohort indicators of fertility and marriage for 224 countries or areas, including all 192 Member States. For each country, five estimates referring to different years within the period 1970-2007 are presented. The wallchart entitled World Fertility Patterns 2009[4] presents a subset of the indicators contained in the CD-ROM. According to the estimates presented, global fertility declined from

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.7 and POP/DB/CP/Rev.2009.

[3] Available at http://www.un.org/esa/population.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.12.

4.7 children per woman in the early 1970s to 2.6 children per woman in the period 2005-2010. Most of this decline is attributable to falling fertility, from 5.6 to 2.5 children per woman, in the group of developing countries that excludes the least developed countries. In the least developed countries, average fertility remains high at 4.4 children per woman in the period 2005-2010, and 31 of the 49 least developed countries still have fertility levels of 5.0 children per woman or higher.

9. To raise awareness about the implications of continued high fertility in the least developed countries, the Population Division produced a policy brief[5] entitled: "What would it take to accelerate fertility decline in the least developed countries?". The brief outlines the benefits of expanding access to modern family planning methods, documents the high levels of unmet need for contraception in the least developed countries and argues that expanding access to family planning can significantly contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality, two of the key Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the brief highlights Government commitment and increased funding for family planning in the least developed countries as being necessary to reduce unmet need for contraception, and notes that donor funding for family planning has decreased in most countries since 1995.

10. The Population Division is responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health included in the revised framework for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: (a) contraceptive prevalence rate; (b) adolescent birth rate; and (c) unmet need for family planning. The latter is monitored in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2009, the Division provided updated estimates for each of the indicators, together with corresponding metadata (including definitions and methods of computation), for the Millennium Development Goals database maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition, the Population Division contributed to the database estimates of the contraceptive prevalence of modern methods and condom use, and of the spacing and limiting components of unmet need for family planning.

III. Mortality and health

11. The Population Division convened an Expert Group Meeting on Health, Mortality and Development in New York from 10 to 12 November 2009. The Meeting brought together experts and representatives of intergovernmental organizations to discuss current health challenges, including the burden of disease, strategies to address such challenges, including the strengthening of health systems, and the estimation of adult mortality. The presentations given at the Meeting contributed to the preparations for the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Meeting also focused on methodological developments for estimating adult mortality, providing an opportunity for the United Nations system to cooperate in harmonizing and improving the reliability of the adult mortality estimates it uses. Thus, the Meeting also fulfilled the objectives of the Third Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality, which it replaced. The report of the Meeting is under preparation.

[5] United Nations Population Division, Policy Brief No. 2009/1 (March 2009).

12. The Population Division issued a wallchart entitled *World Mortality 2009*,[6] which presents data on infant mortality, under-five mortality, the probability of dying between specific ages, and life expectancy at birth by sex for the period 2005-2010. It also shows the maternal mortality ratio for 2005, HIV prevalence and the number of deaths caused by AIDS in 2007, and the proportion of all deaths by major groups of causes of death in 2004. Estimates are presented for 196 countries or areas.

13. In order to assess the gender dimensions of child mortality, the Population Division has been preparing revised and updated estimates of infant mortality ($_1q_0$), child mortality ($_4q_1$) and under-five mortality ($_5q_0$) by sex for developing countries with at least one million inhabitants in 2005. A report containing an analysis of sex differentials in child mortality is in preparation. It is well known that, because of biological factors, boys are more likely to die in infancy than girls. Preliminary findings indicate that the excess male mortality among infants has remained almost universal since the 1970s, whereas among children aged 1 to 4, the prevalence of excess male mortality has increased markedly.

14. The Population Division has continued to compile and document data suitable for the estimation of mortality. In order to facilitate access to the various types of data available for the estimation of mortality, the Division is developing a database containing both the basic data needed for mortality estimation and relevant metadata.

15. During 2009, the Population Division continued to participate actively in the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose objective is to coordinate efforts to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4 regarding the reduction of infant and under-five mortality. Established in 2004, the Inter-agency Group is led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and its members include both the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provides valuable input in revising and updating the official database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF.

16. The Population Division collaborated in the preparation of the high-level plenary meeting that will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2010. As part of this process, the Division served as co-chair of the Working Group of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the Millennium Development Goals, organizing meetings and coordinating activities. The Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on the scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/64/263).

IV. International migration

17. The Population Division issued the report entitled "International migration report 2006: a global assessment" (ESA/P/WP.209). The first part of the report provides an analysis of international migration levels, trends and policies. Between 1990 and 2005, the more developed regions absorbed most of the increase in the global number of international migrants. A major reason for the slow growth in

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.4.

migrant stock in the less developed regions was the decline in the number of refugees. The number of Governments that wished to lower their levels of immigration fell by half between 1996 and 2005. Increasingly, Governments were taking measures to facilitate the inflows of skilled migrants and low-skilled temporary migrant workers. The second part of the report includes the reports of the Secretary-General on international migration and development prepared for the fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the General Assembly, together with the resolutions on international migration and development adopted at those sessions. Part three of the report contains international migration profiles for 228 countries or areas as well as for major areas, regions and special country groupings. The profiles contain data for 1995 and 2005 on total population, international migrant stock, refugees and remittances, as well as information on Government views and policies relating to immigration and emigration levels. Levels of annual average net migration over the periods 1995-2000 and 2000-2005 are also presented. During 2009, the Population Division continued to work on an updated version of the assessment report.

18. The Population Division published a wallchart entitled "International Migration 2009".[7] The wallchart presents the most recent estimates of the international migrant stock by country, shown in greater detail in the CD-ROM entitled "Trends in international migrant stock: the 2008 revision". The wallchart also includes estimates of remittances and of net migration as well as information on the status of ratification of five international instruments related to international migration. According to the 2008 Revision of "Trends in international migrant stock", the number of international migrants increased from 195 million in 2005 to 214 million in 2010. During the period 2005-2010, the growth rate of the migrant stock was 1.8 per cent per year, similar to that during the period 2000-2005. According to statistics published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), there were 15.2 million refugees in 2008. In 2007, remittances at the global level reached $380 billion, according to World Bank estimates. While remittances accounted for less than 1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) globally, they constituted 5.4 per cent of the GDP of the least developed countries. An interactive version of the 2008 Revision can be accessed on the international migration page of the Division's website (http://www.unmigration.org).

19. The Population Division issued the data set entitled "International migration flows to and from selected countries: the 2008 revision", which contains annual data on inflows and, where available, outflows and net flows, of international migrants by country of previous residence or next residence. The data set presents data for 29 countries of destination, twice as many as those included in the 2005 Revision of the same data set.

20. The Population Division collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the organization of a regional workshop on international migration statistics, held in Cairo from 30 June to 3 July 2009. The workshop brought together more than 50 representatives of national statistical offices and relevant ministries from member States of ESCWA as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, and experts from within

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.8.

and outside the ESCWA region. Workshop participants noted that data collection on international migration in countries of the ESCWA region was deficient and could not be used to generate the type of statistics recommended by the United Nations. Strategies to improve the quality and availability of international migration statistics were discussed. Particular attention was given to measures that would improve the dissemination of existing data on international migration, especially those derived from administrative sources. The use of surveys to gather detailed information on the interrelations between international migration and development was also a focus of discussion.

21. The Population Division organized the Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, held in New York on 16 and 17 November 2009. The Meeting brought together some 70 representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and of other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, as well as of civil society organizations and research institutes. Delegates from permanent missions in New York also participated as observers. The Meeting included presentations on the global and regional impact of the economic and financial crisis on international migration, and on recent developments in improving the evidence base on international migration and development. The Director of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented the key findings of the *Human Development Report 2009*[8], the theme of which was "Overcoming barriers: human mobility and development". Participants were briefed on the main achievements of the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Athens on 4 and 5 November 2009. The Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations urged the United Nations system organizations to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the third meeting. A representative of the Government of Mexico, which will hold the chair of the Global Forum in 2010, spoke about the organization of the fourth meeting of the Forum, which is expected to take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in November 2010. The organizations participating in the Eighth Meeting shared information about their current and future activities in the area of international migration. The papers and presentations prepared for the Seventh and the Eighth Coordination Meetings on International Migration can be accessed on the international migration page of the Division's website.

22. With financial support from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, the Population Division continued to update the United Nations Global Migration Database, which can be accessed through a password-protected Internet site (see http://esa.un.org/unmigration). The database contains the most complete set of publicly available data on the foreign or the foreign-born population enumerated by censuses or population registers and classified by sex, age and country of birth or citizenship, respectively. The data contained in the database have been used, in particular, to document the number of migrant children (persons under age 15).

23. During 2009, the Population Division was active in various forums working to improve data on international migration. In March 2009, a representative of the Division participated in the second meeting of the Suitland Working Group, an

[8] United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

international task force led by the United States Census Bureau whose aim is to improve the availability of migration data mainly by expanding the use of household surveys. The Division also participated in the ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research created in 2009 under the aegis of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

24. The Population Division continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, whose activities provide a link between the Global Forum and the United Nations. Supported by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, representatives of the Division and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs participated in the third meeting of the Global Forum, held in Athens on 4 and 5 November 2009.

25. The Population Division continued to provide substantive support to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his capacity as member of the Global Migration Group, a consultative mechanism comprising the heads of 11 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, a representative of the regional commissions, the World Bank and the head of the International Organization for Migration. In 2009, the Global Migration Group revised its terms of reference, modified its working methods, organized a one-day retreat, delivered a joint statement at the third meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and produced a number of fact sheets on different aspects of international migration.

V. World population estimates and projections

26. The preparation of biennial population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside the United Nations system. Entities relying on population data generated by the Division include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Bank. Key publications on data and indicators prepared by entities of the United Nations system, such as the monitoring statistics for the Millennium Development Goals, use as input the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Division. Researchers, academics and the media also make full use of the Division's population estimates and projections. The official United Nations population estimates and projections are key inputs for several analytical reports prepared by the Division, including the reports on population ageing, fertility, mortality and international migration. The population estimates and projections are also used in the preparation of wallcharts and a number of databases.

27. In 2009, the Population Division issued the results of the 2008 Revision of *World Population Prospects*. Outputs presenting the results of the 2008 Revision include an interactive online database accessible through the Division's website, two CD-ROMs, a wallchart and a working paper presenting the analytical highlights of the 2008 Revision. For the 2008 Revision, the detailed documentation on the data sources and methods used at the country level has been enhanced and released in the

form of an Internet-accessible database (see http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp2008/index.htm). In addition, the set of data available for download was expanded.

28. The data presented in *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision* show that the world population will likely increase from the current 6.8 billion to 7 billion by early 2012, and is projected to surpass 9 billion by 2050. The projected increase by 2050, amounting to almost 2.3 billion, is almost equivalent to the world population in 1950 and will be absorbed mostly by the less developed regions, whose population is projected to rise from 5.6 billion in 2009 to 7.9 billion in 2050. In contrast, the population of the more developed regions is expected to remain largely unchanged at 1.2 billion and would have declined were it not for the projected net migration from developing countries, which is expected to average 2.4 million persons per year after 2010.

29. The results of the 2008 Revision were issued in two sets of CD-ROMs containing files in Excel format: a comprehensive data set[9] and an extended data set.[10] The latter includes, for each demographic indicator, interpolated estimates by single calendar year. The results of the 2008 Revision were also published in two volumes, entitled: Comprehensive Tables (vol. I)[11] and Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population (vol. II).[12] A third volume, presenting an in-depth analysis of the results obtained, is under preparation. A wallchart entitled World Population 2008[13] presents key indicators from the 2008 Revision.

30. The Population Division worked towards completion of the 2009 Revision of *World Urbanization Prospects*, which is expected to be released early in 2010. Estimates and projections of urban and rural populations will be made available through an interactive database accessible on the Division's website. The data will also be released on a CD-ROM and in wallcharts.

31. During 2009, the Population Division continued to lead a task team on population estimates operating under the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. Members of the task team include all the regional commissions, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. The task team held two meetings via teleconference and produced a report on metadata for annual population estimates to guide the compilation of population estimates by the United Nations Statistics Division. In addition, members of the task team collaborated with the Population Division in verifying the preliminary results of the 2008 Revision of *World Population Prospects* and were given special access to the results of the 2008 Revision.

32. In 2009, the Population Division continued developing a database that would integrate all empirical data used in preparing the official population estimates and projections of the United Nations. The Division also continued to work on improving the methodology for the preparation of its estimates and projections of

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[9] *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Comprehensive Dataset* (CD-ROM) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.5).

[10] *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Extended Dataset in Excel and ASCII Formats* (CD-ROM) (two disk set, United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.6).

[11] *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.2).

[12] *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.3).

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.2.

national populations and urban and rural populations. In particular, the Division pursued its collaboration with statisticians at the University of Washington in Seattle, United States of America, to develop a Bayesian approach to the projection of fertility and mortality.

VI. Population policies

33. As part of its efforts to ensure the proper monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed development goals related to population, including the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the Population Division launched, in 2008, the United Nations Tenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. Between 1963 and 2003, the Secretary-General conducted nine inquiries among Governments, recording their views and policies on every aspect of population and development. The Tenth Inquiry was sent to all permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and was made available in paper, electronic and web-based formats. Although five reminders to complete the Inquiry had been sent by October 2009, the response rate remains low: only 35, or one fifth, of all Member States had responded by the end of 2009, a substantial decline compared with five years ago, when 85 Governments had responded within the same period. The results of the Inquiry have been incorporated into the 2009 edition of World Population Policies and its accompanying policy database.

34. The Population Division worked towards completion of *World Population Policies 2009*,[14] the most comprehensive overview of population policies for all Member and non-member States of the United Nations. The report documents policy changes by providing policy information based on the data available at mid-decade for the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and for 2009. Policy information is provided on, inter alia, population growth, fertility, health and mortality, international migration and spatial distribution. The report confirms that the most significant demographic concern among Governments continues to be the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Among developing countries, high infant and child mortality and high maternal mortality are, respectively, the second and third issues raising the most concern. In developed countries, population ageing is the most pressing concern, followed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, low fertility and the size of the working-age population. Developed countries are concerned about the potential shortage of workers that could result from continued low fertility and the resulting population ageing. Developing countries are also concerned about the number of persons of working age, but mainly because they have been unable to expand employment rapidly enough. Two additional outputs related to *World Population Policies 2009* were released: a CD-ROM and an interactive online database, the latter accessible through the Division's website.

35. While the Division has accumulated a wealth of information on a wide range of population policy issues, the electronic storage and organization of those resources has been limited, thus limiting the use of the information. In order to improve access to those resources, the Division has begun to develop a relational database containing the results of all inquiries among Governments and a wide

[14] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14 (forthcoming).

range of information on population policy from other official sources. This redesigned policy database will enable analysts to examine and compare data systematically and efficiently. A web-based user interface is being developed to facilitate access to the information available.

36. The Population Division completed a report entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies*,[15] in which it discusses the characteristics of national legislation governing child adoption and presents data on the total number of adoptions for 118 countries. In addition, the numbers of domestic and intercountry adoptions are presented for as many countries as possible. The report also contains detailed country profiles on adoption. Over 160 countries recognize the legal institution of adoption but 20 lack legal provisions allowing child adoption. Although, by 2005, the number of adoptions per year had reached nearly 250,000, the majority of adoptions took place in a few countries, in particular the United States, China and the Russian Federation, in order of magnitude. Domestic adoptions, meaning those involving only citizens or residents of the same country, account for 85 per cent of all adoptions. The number of domestic adoptions has been declining in many countries, however, due in part to the declining supply of adoptable children, which is in turn attributed to women's increased capacity to control their fertility and societal changes through which single parenthood has become more acceptable. At the same time, the number of intercountry adoptions has been rising, both in absolute terms and as a share of all adoptions. These and other findings regarding the characteristics of adopted children and adoptive parents can be found in the report. The paucity of the data available to study the characteristics of adoption is noted in the report, which also provides guidelines on how to improve the quality and coverage of adoption statistics.

VII. Population and development

37. The Population Division completed the report entitled "World population ageing 2009". According to the report, in 2009, the number of persons aged 60 or over had surpassed 700 million and was projected nearly to triple and likely surpass 2 billion by 2050. The financial and economic crisis was having significant negative effects on pension funds and on the rate of return of pension assets. The crisis also had an impact on the working-age population owing to rising unemployment. Persons that were due to retire and the millions of older persons lacking pensions in developing countries were especially vulnerable to the effects of the crisis. In the report, the Division also documented the differences between urban and rural areas in terms of population ageing and provided useful information on the characteristics of older populations in all countries of the world. An electronic version of the report can be accessed on the Division's website (http://www.un.org/esa/population).

38. The Population Division produced a wallchart entitled "Population ageing and development 2009",[16] which contains updated indicators of the demographic, socio-economic and labour characteristics of older populations. The indicators presented in the wallchart include: proportion of the population aged 60 or over and the share of persons aged 80 or over; life expectancy at age 60; percentage of older persons (aged 60 or over) who are currently married, living alone or in the labour force;

[15] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.4.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.10.

old-age support ratio; and statutory age at retirement. Indicators are presented for each of 230 countries, areas or regions. The wallchart is also accessible in electronic format on the Division's website.

39. In collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Division organized an Expert Group Meeting on Population Ageing, Intergenerational Transfers and Social Protection, which was held in Santiago, on 20 and 21 October 2009. The Meeting, funded by the International Development Research Centre of Canada, was co-sponsored by UNFPA, the University of California at Berkeley and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. The Meeting brought together more than 50 participants, including members of academia, representatives of international organizations and Government officials. Participants considered how population ageing in Latin America and other regions was transforming the needs for economic support and social protection of different population groups. To assess those transformations, a new methodology to derive national transfer accounts was considered, particularly as applied to the cases of Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay. Participants discussed the implications of population ageing for intergenerational transfers and pension systems, particularly in light of the current economic and financial crisis, and also considered options for addressing the increasing health expenditures associated with population ageing. A selection of the papers presented at the Meeting will be published in *Notas de Población*, a journal published by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre — Population Division (CELADE) of ECLAC.

40. To ensure that the implications of population ageing for global public health were taken into account in the annual ministerial review conducted during the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the Population Division organized a ministerial round table breakfast on the implications of population ageing for global public health, held in Geneva on 8 July 2009. The event was co-sponsored by the Governments of Israel and Mexico, which held the Chair of the Commission on Population and Development during different parts of 2009. Representatives of 12 Member States and four non-governmental organizations participated in the side event. Participants underscored that, in ageing populations, communicable diseases claimed far fewer lives than non-communicable diseases. The burden of disease had thus shifted to those suffering from often chronic conditions that required continuous health management. Participants acknowledged that strategies to address epidemiological changes in ageing populations had to be focused on both prevention and health care. Prevention should aim at reducing high-risk behaviours, including cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption and salt intake, and at reducing obesity caused both by lack of exercise and by the prevalence of high-fat and high-sugar diets. Several participants expressed concern about the growing prevalence of diabetes among relatively young populations and recognized that the increasing burden of chronic disease was leading to rising health-care costs.

41. The Population Division participated in the working group on the financial and economic crisis, set up by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which coordinated the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/CONF.214/4), held in New York from 24 to 26 June 2009. The Division provided inputs for the report and support in servicing the Conference, including by assisting in the preparation of the report of round table 3 (A/CONF.214/8), on the theme

"Present and future impacts of the crisis on, inter alia, employment, trade, investment and development, including the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals".

42. The Division provided inputs for the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The concept note on the draft general recommendation on older women and protection of their human rights (CEDAW/C/2009/II/WP.1/R) cited data compiled on older men and women by the Division. In addition, the Population Division collaborated with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Division for Social Policy and Development in preparing a special note on the latest information on population ageing and older women. The note served as the basis for the discussions on older women and protection of their human rights, held on 21 July 2009 among entities of the United Nations system and key stakeholders.

43. Together with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Division for Sustainable Development, the Population Division provided inputs for an article, entitled "Better cities, better lives: challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world", drafted by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The article will be published in a magazine that will be made available at World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China.

44. The 2009 edition of the Population, Resources, Environment and Development Databank (PRED Bank) was released on CD-ROM. The database includes 120 indicators, grouped under the following headings: (a) population; (b) resources; (c) environment; (d) development; and (e) policy. The indicators included in the 2009 edition cover the period 1990-2008, and allow users to examine the interrelationships between population trends and dynamics, changes in the availability of resources, impact on the environment and the effect of development.

45. The Population Division collaborated with UNFPA and other United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme, in the organization of a side event on cities, population dynamics and climate change, held during the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009. The Division provided substantive inputs for the presentations and discussions on population dynamics and their linkages with climate change. Participants in the side event highlighted the various approaches taken by the United Nations to support low-carbon and sustainable urban development, and the importance of population dynamics in planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

46. The report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring is prepared annually by the Population Division for submission to the Commission on Population and Development. The 2009 report (E/CN.9/2009/3) was focused on the

contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the special theme for the forty-second session of the Commission.

47. The world population monitoring report prepared by the Population Division for the forty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2010/3) focuses on health, morbidity, mortality and development.

B. Dissemination of population information and data

48. During 2009, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide timely access by Government officials and civil society to population information. The Division's website (http://www.un.org/esa/population) provides access to most of its publications, usually well in advance of their availability in printed form. Postings on the website include highlights, key findings, papers presented at United Nations meetings, proceedings of United Nations meetings, reports, wallcharts, data sets and interactive databases. The site also provides information about the work of the Commission on Population and Development, including the official documentation for its sessions and guidance for non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission. Traffic statistics indicate that in 2009 the Division's website was visited by some 3,800 users per day, generating approximately 2.5 million page views over the year.

49. The Population Division also maintains a website focusing exclusively on international migration (http://www.unmigration.org). This website serves as a portal containing links to the numerous international migration activities closely related to the work of the Division, both within and outside the United Nations system, and therefore includes links and references to the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group.

50. The Population Division is responsible for maintaining the website of the United Nations Population Information Network, although extrabudgetary funding for this project ceased several years ago. The Network is a portal to the population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the website shows that the Network remains a well-established brand name and is a useful channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations system, with the number of visits having totalled 62,000 in 2009.

51. The Population Division continued to use its e-mail announcement service to alert subscribers to important news, events and developments concerning its activities. The service currently has over 1,800 subscribers from around the world. Information on Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also distributed regularly to relevant persons and institutions included in the Division's various mailing lists.

52. MORTPAK for Windows, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, continued to be distributed, especially among analysts in developing countries who use it for teaching or research purposes. An updated version (4.1), compatible with Vista and Windows 7, was released.

IX. Technical cooperation

53. The focus of the Population Division's regular programme of technical cooperation is on building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy.

54. During 2009, the Population Division conducted a survey of governmental entities using or preparing demographic indicators to determine the areas most in need of capacity development. The responses suggest that many developing countries lack the human resources and institutional mechanisms required to incorporate demographic information into efforts to monitor the impact of relevant policies. The results of the survey are being used to develop a targeted strategy for expanding the capacity of officials in developing countries to carry out demographic analysis.

55. The Population Division's technical cooperation programme continued to support the development of the web-based multilingual demographic encyclopaedia, "Demopaedia", whose capacity to promote collaborative work across borders in different languages is being tested. The Division organized a side event on Demopaedia during the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development and a Demopaedia training session at the twenty-sixth International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, held in Marrakech, Morocco. The training session took place on 27 September 2009 and provided training for 45 participants from 34 countries.

56. With financial support from UNFPA and in collaboration with ESCWA, the Population Division organized a workshop on strengthening analytical capacity in census analysis in developing countries, held in Beirut, from 7 to 11 December 2009. The workshop provided training to 13 Government officials from 11 developing countries on a variety of aspects of demographic analysis applicable to data yielded by censuses or surveys. During the workshop, participants were encouraged to network, evaluate learning tools and information sources, and develop suggestions for the improvement of available manuals and learning tools.

57. In response to the demand for training materials identified in surveys conducted by the Population Division, the technical manuals produced over the years by the Division have been scanned and posted on its website. The manuals have been cross-referenced for ease of use.

58. The Population Division collaborated with the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in providing training on population projections to statisticians. A training workshop was held in Chesham, United Kingdom, on 18 and 19 June 2009. Workshop participants, mainly from developing countries, were trained in population projection methodology and in the use of different software packages. The Division produced a training CD-ROM that included scanned copies of all methodological manuals produced by the Population Division.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2009)[a]

Expert group meetings

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Population Ageing, Intergenerational Transfers and Social Protection, Santiago, 20 and 21 October 2009

Expert Group Meeting on Health, Mortality and Development, New York, 10-12 November 2009

Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 16 and 17 November 2009

Expert Group Meeting on Emerging Issues in Fertility, New York, 2-4 December 2009

Research studies

World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.2)

World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.3)

International Migration 2006: A Global Assessment (ESA/P/WP.209)

World Population Monitoring: Focusing on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development — The Concise Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.3)

Child Adoption: Trends and Policies (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.4)

Databases (available at http://www.un.org/esa/population)

World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Comprehensive Dataset (CD-ROM) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.5)

World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Extended Dataset in Excel and ASCII Formats (CD-ROM) (two-disk set, United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.XII.6)

Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision

Population, Resources, Environment and Development Databank (PRED Bank), 2009 edition, version 5.0

World Contraceptive Use 2009

World Fertility Data 2008

[a] Not including reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

World Marriage Data 2008

International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2008 Revision

Wallcharts

World Population 2008 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.2)

World Mortality 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.4)

World Contraceptive Use 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.7)

International Migration 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.8)

Population Ageing and Development 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.10)

World Fertility Patterns 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.12)

Periodicals

Population Newsletter, No. 85 (June 2008)

Population Newsletter, No. 86 (December 2008)

Population Newsletter, No. 87 (June 2009)

Other

"What would it take to accelerate fertility decline in the least developed countries?" United Nations Population Division Policy Brief No. 2009/1